

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 6236

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TAGS: PFOR, KS, UNGA, FR
SUBJECT: FRENCH OFFICIALS SUPPORT ROK, EXPRESS INTEREST IN
DEFERRING UNGA KOREA DEBATE, DISCUSS NECLEAR SALES

REF: TOKYO 11886

SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO MOFA, FRENCH OFFICIALS DURING VISIT
TO SEOUL SUPPORTED ROK POSITION IN UNGA, EXPRESSED INTEREST
IN TAKING INITIATIVE ON DEFERRAL ON UN KOREA DEBATE, AND
SAID FRENCH FLIGHTS FROM SAIGON TO BANGKOK WOULD END
AUGUST 31 AT THE ORDER OF THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT.
COMMUNIQUE MENTIONED FRENCH DECISION IN PRINCIPLE TO FINANCE
TWO ROK NECLEAR POWER PLANTS AND PRESS CARRIED REUTERS
STORY REITERATING JANUARY FRENCH DECISION TO TO SUPPLY
SOUTH KOREA WITH NUCLEAR FUEL REPROCESSING PLANT.
END SUMMARY.

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1. A FRENCH DELEGATION HEADED BY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER
RAYMOND BARRE AND INCLUDING QUAI D'ORSAY DIRECTOR FOR

POLITICAL AFFAIRS FRANCOIS LEFEBVRE DE LABOULAYE AND ASIAN BUREAU DIRECTOR JEAN NOIVILLE, VISITED SEOUL JULY 31 - AUGUST 2. QUAI OFFICIALS CONFERRED WITH FONMIN PAK TONG-CHIN FOR OVER ONE HOUR AUGUST 2, CONCENTRATING ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ON KOREAN QUESTION IN UNGA. ACCORDING TO MOFA INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND TREATIES BUREAU DIRECTOR CHUNG U-YONG IN AUGUST 11 CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, FRENCH APPROACH TO KOREAN QUESTION WAS NOT AS RESERVED AND WAS MORE "FORWARD LOOKING" THAN CONVERSATIONS SAME OFFICIALS HAD WITH THEN ROK AMBASSADOR TO UN PAK TONG-CHIN AT SAME STAGE LAST YEAR. BASED ON "ENTHUSIASM" DISPLAYED BY QUAI OFFICIALS, CHUNG GAINED IMPRESSION THAT FRANCE WOULD BE PREPARED TO TAKE INITIATIVE AT APPROPRIATE TIME FOR DEFERRAL OF KOREAN DEBATE AT UN.

2. CHUNG SAID QUAI OFFICIALS WERE VERY INTERESTED IN DEFERRAL OPTION AND SAID THEY WOULD CONSIDER AN INITIATIVE IN THIS AREA. THEY ASKED FOR AND RECEIVED LIST OF CANDIDATES FOR GENERAL COMMITTEE AND ROKG ANALYSIS OF OUTLOOK. ACCORDING TO CHUNG, FRENCH SAID THEY COULD NOT PUBLICLY SUPPORT KISSINGER JULY 22 PROPOSAL SINCE IT "IS NOT WORKABLE." CHUNG SAID THE FRENCH EXPRESSED NO OPINION ON QUESTION OF PRIORITY. PRESS REPORTED FOLLOWING VISIT THAT FRENCH SAID THEY WOULD SUPPORT ROK POSITION IN 31ST UNGA.

3. ACCORDING TO MOFA EUROPEAN DIV I CHIEF CHUNG KYUNG-IL, QUAI OFFICIALS IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH MOFA VICE MINISTER YUN HA-CHUNG LISTENED TO ROK BRIEFING ON ROK POLITICAL SITUATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTION BUT DID NOT MAKE ANY COMMENTS BEYOND THOSE REQUIRED BY DIPLOMATIC COURTESY. CHUNG SAID CONVERSATION CONCENTRATED ON SITUATION IN SAAGON AND THAT FRENCH FURNISHED "VERY INTERESTING INFORMATION." FRENCH SAID THERE WAS VERY SLIM POSSIBILITY THAT THREE ROK DIPLOMATS STILL IN SAIGON JAIL (TWO INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS AND A POLICE OFFICIAL ACCORDING TO CHUNG) WOULD BE RELEASED BY VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES. THEY ALSO SAID THAT VN GOVERNMENT HAD ORDERED FRENCH FLIGHTS FROM SAIGON TO CEASE BY AUGUST 31ST. REGULAR AIRLING
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SERVICE FROM HANOI IS NOW BEING NEGOTIATED BUT FLIGHTS WILL GO DIRECTLY FROM HANOI TO BANGKOK AND PROBABLY WON'T BE ABLE TO STOP IN SAIGON. CHUNG SAID THIS WOULD INCREASE THE DIFFICULTY IN GETTING THE REMAINING ROK NATIONALS AND THEIR FAMILIES OUT OF SAIGON.

4. A JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE VISIT MENTIONED THAT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED IN PRINCIPLE TO FINANCE TWO KOREAN NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS. ON AUGUST 5 THE TWO SEOUL/ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILIES CARRIED

A REUTERS DISPATCH DATELINED PARIS WHICH SAID THE SAME
THING AND ADDED THAT PRES. GISGARD D'ESTAING HAD SAID
THAT FRANCE WOULD NOT SUPPLY KOREA WITH A NUCLEAR FUEL
REPROCESSING PLANT. THE FRENCH ASST COMATT TOLD US THAT
THE PARIS ANNOUNCEMENTS WERE REITERATIONS OF DECISIONS
THAT HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN MADE PUBLIC. HE SAID HE DID NOT
KNOW WHY THE FRENCH GOVT WOULD WANT TO RESTATE ITS
DECISION ON THE NUCLEAR FUEL REPROCESSING PLANT WHICH IT
HAD ANNOUNCED IN JANUARY.
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